



ALL NEW ZEALANDERS WELL-HOUSED



CHA Newsletter 15 June 2020

Welcome to the fortnightly newsletter of Community Housing Aotearoa *Nga Wharerau o Aotearoa*.

Included in this issue – the upcoming election, community housing sector ready to build, describing a fairer future, governance opportunities, and understanding the Building Code.

Our ongoing commitment to all New Zealanders well-housed



For the past few months we have all been busy responding to the COVID-19 pandemic in New Zealand. Finding homes for people in need, helping sustain tenancies, and advocating for whānau in our communities. It's been essential work and here at Community Housing Aotearoa (CHA) we have been proud to support you.

We've all been head down – but now it's time to look up. There's an election coming and we want to make sure that all of the politicians

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hoping to form the next government, and those who will fill the Opposition benches, know about the difference community housing providers make in the lives of whānau every day. We want them to understand our sector's contribution and our ongoing commitment to ensuring that all New Zealanders are well-housed. We want them to hear about what matters to us and how they can help us provide even more good homes. We want to hear about their housing policies and how they would like to engage with us, and we want them to hear from and about you.

We're also looking at how, as a sector, we can work in a more joined-up way. For us here at CHA that means talking with our sister sector organisation, Te Matapihi, to see where we might develop common work programmes or ways of working.

If there is something specific you'd like to see us do, please let us know. We'll continue to be in touch, through the newsletter and various sector conversations, building momentum for the work you do towards all New Zealanders well-housed.

Scott Figenshow, CHA Chief Executive

Community housing ready to go

Radio New Zealand reports that the community housing sector is ready and waiting to construct nearly 3000 homes but desperately needs public cash to get building.

Housing providers have submitted their projects to the Government in a bid to get investment through the 'shovel ready' infrastructure project.

RNZ housing reporter Eva Corlett [filed this story](#).

COVID-19 response reveals hidden homelessness

Radio New Zealand's Nine to Noon programme reports that the true extent of New Zealanders in insecure housing was exposed during the COVID-19 response, leading to calls for a national homelessness strategy and to make housing a legal right.

Lynn Freeman talked to Clare Aspinall at the University of Otago in Wellington, who is currently researching the benefits and challenges of using the Housing First approach in a New Zealand context, Massey University's societal psychologist Darrin Hodgetts whose research focuses on urban poverty and homelessness, and Rolinda Karapu from the Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga research centre who is a senior advocate based at Waikato Women's Refuge.

[The interview can be heard here.](#)

Clare Aspinall will be familiar to many in the community housing sector from her work with CHPs and CHA during the COVID-19 lockdown. She has previously worked for Regional Public Health Wellington as a public health advisor specialising in housing and

homelessness, and she is on the Board of the Dwell Housing Trust in Wellington.

The Shift Aotearoa

By [Brennan Rigby](#), Project Lead for The Shift Aotearoa

Last week The Shift Aotearoa produced a series of webinars and 1-1 interviews for [Visionweek](#) highlighting housing issues in Aotearoa, and visions for better housing futures.

We sailed across a wide range of issues from homelessness, to new experiences with government during COVID, to financialisation, barriers to development on Māori land, the housing system (from many perspectives) and the call for a national rights-based housing strategy.

Just as importantly though, participants are invited to express a real and viable vision for the future, helping surface the solutions we need.

The content can be found on [The Shift Aotearoa website](#), and there's room for more.

The intention in this content is to raise issues, explore options and offer visions, not reach agreement about these things. If you'd like to add your perspective on any of the issues covered, or other issues, please get in touch. I look forward to expanding and diversifying this offering.

Thanks to all those who participated last week, and more of you are welcome to join them in sharing your vision or offering a new lens on the issues we are facing at this time. Visionweek may have finished but the job's not done.

It's easy: [email me](#) and we can make a time to talk. If you'd like to be part of our growing online content, I can record our conversation on Zoom.

Governance vacancies - National Science Challenges

Challenge Governance Group member and co-chair (two vacancies)

The National Science Challenges are designed to find solutions to some of the large, complex issues that matter most to New Zealanders.

The Building better homes, towns and cities: ko ngā wā kāinga hei whakamāhorahora Challenge aims to address some of the significant issues facing our country. Its activities focus on areas such as housing supply, the quality of our housing, and the vulnerabilities and underperformance of some of our urban environments.

The role of the Challenge Governance Group is to provide oversight and direction to this important National Science Challenge. Background information about the Challenge and its work can be found [here](#).

Applicants with experience in the following areas would be particularly welcome:

- affordable or social housing
- local or regional government
- science sector experience and leadership
- kaupapa Māori.

The National Science Challenge welcomes applicants from diverse backgrounds.

The Challenge is looking for two new governance group members at this time to join a strong, established team. A potential co-chair candidate would be welcome from amongst successful applicants.

[More information is available here.](#)

We particularly encourage applications from women, tangata whenua, a broad range of ethnicities, younger members of the community, individuals with a disability, the LGBTIQ community, provincially-based individuals.

Please provide a CV and short covering letter explaining your interest in the appointment and the work of the Challenge.

You are also welcome to contact [Richard Capie](#).

Deadline extended for healthy homes standards compliance statement

The deadline for landlords providing a compliance statement for the healthy homes standards has been extended from 1 July 2020 to 1 December 2020.

More information is [available here](#).

Understanding the Building Code

The Building Performance team within the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment has provided a number of online learning modules to help understand the Building Code, performance requirements, and compliance.

Building Performance says this follows the Government's announcement that it is making it easier for people to do more low-risk building work without needing a building consent, as long as the work meets the requirements of the Building Code. These changes are expected to come into effect at the end of August.

The introduction to the Building Code modules are broken into sections focusing on The Building Code, Building Performance Requirements and Building Consent Compliance. They are between one and three minutes long, easy to use and come complete with an assessment at the end (they are short videos to watch, so you may need headphones).

The full list of modules is:

The Building Code

1. The Building Act
2. Roles and Responsibilities
3. The Building Code

Building Performance Requirements

4. Code Clauses
5. The Structure of the Building Code
6. Performance Measurement

Building Consent Compliance

7. Deemed to Comply
8. Alternative Solutions
9. Information and Guidance

To access the modules, visit building.govt.nz, press 'Start learning' and either log in as a guest or register for an account.

Leadership role at SSPA available

A leadership role is becoming available with Social Service Providers Aotearoa (SSPA), and expressions of interest from people interested in a secondment or a fixed term role are being sought.

National Manager Brenda Pilott, who plans to step back from full-time work soon, says she's happy to discuss the role with anyone interested and can be contacted at 027 430 6016 or [by email](#).

SSPA is looking for someone who is politically astute, skilled at influencing, representation and advocacy, and preferably with standing in the social services area.

A brief overview of the role is [available here](#).

In the news

- [Government to fast-track 11 big projects](#)
- [Rotorua housing strategy promises to enable thousands of homes](#)
- [How lockdown helped get Wellington's rough sleepers off the streets](#)
- [Kāinga Ora commitment to Homestar 6 standard](#)
- [Environmental meeting with developers over new housing proposal in Nelson](#)
- [Government to spend \\$40m to underwrite delayed Wellington KiwiBuild development](#)

- [Solving housing crisis will take leadership](#)
- ['We have to keep going' - Te Puea Marae helps 480 people into homes in last four years](#)
- [Airbnb property owners switch to long-term rentals](#)
- [Wanaka KiwiBuild homes completed](#)